



Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center
National Institutes of Health

Echocardiogram

You are scheduled for an echocardiogram (or ultrasound study of the heart). It is a valuable diagnostic test that makes images of the heart. This painless, noninvasive test uses sound waves to identify abnormalities in the heart muscle and valves, and find any fluid that may surround the heart. The echocardiogram has no known risk.

Preparation: There is no preparation, however, relaxing during the test is helpful. Wearing clothing that gives easy access to the chest is also helpful.

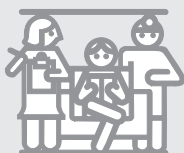
Procedure:

- You will be asked to remove all clothing over your chest, and you will be given appropriate covering.
- Three electrodes will be attached to your chest to record an electrocardiogram at the same time. This is an aid for reading the echocardiogram.
- During the test, you will lie comfortably in a bed. From time to time, you may be asked to move into different positions.
- Several readings and types of images will be recorded.
- When all the necessary information is obtained, the gel and electrodes will be removed. The information obtained will be read by a qualified cardiologist and sent to your doctor.
- The test lasts 30 minutes to 1 hour.

After the Procedure: After the procedure, you may resume your usual activities. You may obtain results from your doctor and should follow your referring doctor's plan of care.

If you have questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

Special Instructions:



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This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Questions about the Clinical Center? OCCC@cc.nih.gov

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